

Development Challenges, South-South Solutions: July 2011 Issue

Stories

1) **Bringing the Invention and Innovation Mindset to Young Kenyans**

A highly innovative new way to teach the basics of electronics, computing and technological innovation is being pioneered in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Driven by the desire to counter perceptions of apathy among young people, NGO Kuweni Serious is running a training course for girls aged over 8 years in some of the poorest parts of the city to turn on a new generation to the power of technology to make change.

“Technology is pivotal in our work, as Kuweni Serious is a primarily online platform that seeks to create offline action,” according to Kuweni Serious’ Rachel Gichengo. “It’s positive in that you can reach a lot of people with solid messages that are in bite-size pieces that are easy to disseminate and consume. Everyone can pass on the information with a simple click – it’s an easier way to begin socio-political discussion among people who would otherwise not be drawn into these kinds of discussions because they’re not presented in a way that appeals to them. The typical profile of a KS volunteer is someone in their 20s, middle-class, has some experience volunteering, has never been to a slum despite living in Nairobi, but wants more for their country.”

The course uses a clever, hands-on approach to teaching. Instructors use a new generation of learning toys that help young people understand how technology works and gives them the first taste of what it is like to build something from scratch. These toys comprise various components that perform tasks – a light, a motor, a computer, a music player. Active invention is required to work out how to assemble these parts to make something bigger and better. This stands in stark contrast to toys – or computer games – where all the hard work is done for the child and they just have to play.

“We chose tech training because it’s a traditionally under-represented area when it comes to reaching this particular group (underprivileged girls), yet such an important set of skills to be taught in this day and age,” confirms Gichengo. “We want to expand these girls’ thinking – to get them interested in the possibilities of careers in science and tech, rather than perpetuate the idea that all they’ll ever do, based on their circumstances, is tailoring or dance. We hoped to open our girls’ worlds a bit, as well as link them to our Kuweni Serious community of volunteers.”

Called PicoCrickets (www.picocricket.com), and manufactured by the Canadian Playful Invention Company (PICO), the toys were developed from research and ideas at the Lifelong Kindergarten group (<http://llk.media.mit.edu/>) at the MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Media Lab (www.media.mit.edu).

“Pico Crickets are cool,” continues Gichengo. “They’re a fun way to learn to build things, to learn the connection between hardware and software, to begin to understand what computers can do. They make learning easy, and they make science seem accessible to a group that tends to see it as too hard for them. The kits were paid for by a grant from the Girl Effect (www.girleffect.org).”

The MIT lab conducted intensive research into creative learning environments for children. One of the first fruits of this research was Lego Mindstorms (<http://mindstorms.lego.com>), kits that allow children to make and program their own robots.

Inspired by this work, the PicoCricket places more emphasises on artistic expression. The company created the PicoCricket Kit (www.picocricket.com/whatisit.html) as a way to integrate art and technology to “spark creative thinking in girls and boys 8 years and older,” according to its website.

A typical kit includes a central PicoCricket that a child then plugs in to various motors, sensors, lights and other devices to make something that can spin, light up or play music. It is intended to give free rein to both technological innovation and artistic expression.

Kenya experienced violent rioting during the 2007 and 2008 elections. The shock of the events produced a number of initiatives to counter the violence and the social and economic disruption it has caused. One of the most well-known innovations, Ushahidi (www.ushahidi.com), a crisis-mapping platform, has been deployed around the world and led to many other new innovations.

Kuweni Serious (www.kuweniserious.org) is also a result of this crisis. The NGO sets out to counter the stereotype of Kenya’s youth as a “hedonistic generation of brand-obsessed youth, moving from party to party in the night and congregating on Facebook during the day.”

Kuweni Serious believes young people in Kenya were shocked into action when violence broke out during the elections. Prices jumped for everything – from fuel to food – and water and power started to be rationed. It was a wake-up call to youth: it was getting harder and harder to ignore what was happening in the country.

Kuweni Serious was founded by Kenyan youth and asked the question “how do Kenya’s youth feel about all the chaos around us?” It seeks to rally young people to their motto: “Fighting the evil forces of apathy.”

Their 125/100 program set out to train 125 girls on a 100-day course. It ended with a graduation ceremony on July 2, 2011.

The program, run by volunteers from the University of Nairobi, has taught basic computer skills, got the children working on Google Maps and making – and inventing – using the PicoCrickets.

The girls on the course came from Baba Dogo and Kibera, Nairobi's largest slum.

The technology training program lasted between three and six hours a week for 12 weeks. The inventions made by the children included merry go rounds, a lamp stand and fan and miniature automobiles. Participants even got to grips with Google Maps and learned how to use mobile phones in citizen journalism. At the end of the course, all the children received a certificate reinforcing their sense of accomplishment and achievement.

"We hope to continue doing similar projects, scaling up 125/100, and working on developing a corps of everyday change makers among young, educated, middle class Kenyans," according to Gichengo. "We're also preparing for the 2012 elections, so we need to have more conversations about what a new election means, given the outcome of our previous one."

Another initiative seeking to improve life chances for Kenyan girls is ZanaAfrica (www.zanaa.org). It focuses on educational opportunities for girls, consulting them to find out what would increase their chances of graduation from school. Because of this back-and-forth dialogue with the girls, they have come up with various strategic programs, one example being providing girls with sanitary pads for menstruation (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Menstruation>) every month so that they do not skip classes and lose vital class time. ZanaAfrica was born around tackling the issue of lost school days for girls because of poor provision of sanitary pads in Kenya: an estimated 868,000 adolescent girls were missing 3.5 million school days a month, according to ZanaAfrica. Sanitary pads in Kenya cost twice most people's daily wage. Just to provide pads to all the school girls in Kenya, they estimated, would cost US \$13 million a year, increasing by 5 percent every year.

Another disadvantage for these girls is finding the right support environment and strong, positive role models. ZanaAfrica's solution is Empowerment Clubs (www.zanaa.org/empowernet-clubs), places where small groups of 15 to 20 students meet with field officers and tackle difficult topics not discussed at home or in school: drugs, relationships, self-confidence, health and disease. There are already 1,000 students in the Kibera area in these Empowerment Clubs. This approach has also been combined with something called EmpowerNet Clubs: these clubs take place in the schools and combine blogging and tweeting (www.twitter.com) with the discussions on life issues. Already in five schools, the clubs include a field officer and 20 girls meeting once a week.

ZanaAfrica was started in 2007 by social entrepreneur and Harvard University graduate Megan White, who has been living and working in Kenya since 2001. ZanaAfrica identifies poverty-eradicating, African-led innovations and then tries to build them up and find ways to replicate them and make them sustainable. They look for innovations in the areas of health, education and the environment.

“Kenyans are definitely early adopters, and are rushing to take advantage of new technologies,” confirms Gichengo. “The Kenyan success stories have been a huge inspiration, largely because they developed localized solutions that could then be exported to the world, rather than the other way around, which tends to be the case. There’s always value in looking further afield to see what else is being done around the world, but the iHub and Ushahidi (and the Kenya ICT Board, Safaricom, etc.) have gone a long, long way in inspiring local innovation.”

LINKS:

1) Make Magazine: “MAKE Magazine brings the do-it-yourself mindset to all the technology in your life. MAKE is loaded with exciting projects that help you make the most of your technology at home and away from home. We celebrate your right to tweak, hack, and bend any technology to your own will.” **Website:** <http://makezine.com/>

2) Lego Mindstorms robot-making kits. **Website:** <http://mindstorms.lego.com/en-us/Default.aspx>

3) Southern Innovator Issue 1: New global magazine celebrating innovation across the global South. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/57980406/Southern-Innovator-Issue-1>

4) iHub Nairobi: iHub Nairobi’s Innovation Hub for the technology community is an open space for the technologists, investors, tech companies and hackers in the area. This space is a tech community facility with a focus on young entrepreneurs, web and mobile phone programmers, designers and researchers. It is part open community workspace (co-working), part vector for investors and VCs and part incubator. **Website:** <http://ihub.co.ke/pages/home.php>

5) Maker Faire Africa 2011: MFA 2011 continues to cultivate new and existing maker communities across Africa. As was the case in Accra (‘09) and Nairobi (‘10), MFA 2011 will present and spotlight the vibrant and endlessly creative individuals that have come to represent the spirit of ‘making’ throughout the continent. These innovators, artists and tinkerers will be exhibiting a fusion of the informal and formal; ideas, inventions, hacks and designs both low-tech & high-tech. From cuisine to machines, come see their re-imagining of products, exploration of novel materials, and original solutions for some of the continent’s most important challenges and opportunities. Maker Faire Africa 2011 will be a celebratory showcase of unhindered experimentation and curiosity. **Website:** <http://makerfaireafrica.com/2011/06/09/maker-faire-africa-2011-cairo/>

6) Social enterprise (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_enterprise): Learn more about the vibrant world of social enterprise and connect with others. **Website:** <http://www.socialenterpriselive.com/>

2) Arab World Domain Name Opportunity Huge Economic Help

With the so-called Arab Spring still unfolding across much of the Arabic-speaking world, it is easy to miss a rising new economic opportunity: The introduction of an Arabic domain name system for the Internet.

The explosion in mobile phones in the Arab world has dramatically increased the number of people who can now access the Internet. One Arabic financial website put the number of people who can now access the Internet in one way or another in the Arab world as 75 million (www.nuqudy.com). As highlighted in the 2003 Arab Human Development Report (AHDR), Arabic-speaking countries have been at a knowledge disadvantage for some time: more than 270 million citizens have access to fewer books than other languages, slower growth economies, and greater illiteracy than the faster-growing emerging economies. At the time, the AHDR found there were just 18 computers per 1,000 people compared to a global average of 78. And just 1.6 percent of Arabs had internet access, one of the lowest ratios in the world (AHDR 2003).

Since the dawn of the Internet, Latin script has been used exclusively for top-level web domain names, the addresses that end .com, .org and so on. That has been a big obstacle for users of non-Latin script languages like Arabic. It is estimated just 10 percent of people in the Arab world speak English. Many of the resources on the Internet and its utility have been lost to these people. But by using Arabic domain names, there will be a consistency and no more guesswork.

A typical problem in Latin transliterations of Arabic is the conundrum as to either using El or Al as the prefix to a word. This problem is eliminated when Arabic is used.

The Arab world is also very mixed, including the resource-rich, cash-rich Gulf States – Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain – and states with high rates of poverty such as Egypt, Djibouti and Yemen.

The protests and uprisings this year in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere - with their Facebook pages and Twitter streams - have shown that a growing group of highly Internet-savvy young people is emerging in the Arab world. But for many without the education or the resources, access to knowledge still remains weak. But armed with Internet-capable mobile phones and Arabic language domain names, rapid change is now possible.

The number of books published in Arabic is notoriously relatively low, and print runs are small. Arabic language books make up just 1.1 percent of world production.

The AHDR reports have called this knowledge deficit a direct obstacle to human development in Arab countries.

But things are changing and the rise of Arabic domain names offers the potential for an explosion in Arabic language Internet content.

In May 2010 ICANN, the world's Internet domain authority, decided to allow top-level domains in non-Latin script. For Arabic speakers, it started this program in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

As a sign of the importance of Arabic participation in future growth of the Internet, this year's World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS) held in Geneva, Switzerland in May 2011 was sponsored by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

A catchy domain name has many advantages. For Arabic speakers, this means they can type in Arabic domain names for websites and even do it right to left, as they do in print.

In 2009, the first Arabic domain name was grabbed by Egypt. As the Internet naming authority, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) (www.icann.org), started to allow the registering of non-Latin script names. The domain was for the Arabic word for Egypt or ".masr".

As an early adopter, Egypt sees it as an important part of bringing more Arabic speakers online. George Victor, from the Egyptian National Telecom Regulatory Authority, told the BBC: "We believe that this is a great step that will open new horizons for many e-services in Egypt, and it will have its direct impact, enlarging the number of online users."

Victor believes using Arabic builds trust.

"Having a domain name in your own language is a point of having a local identity," he said.

"When talking about Arabic domain names, we are talking about having users which are not online now. People with languages disabilities - people who are having language as a barrier to connect online."

From now on Internet address names will be able to end with almost any word in any language, offering organizations around the world the opportunity to market their brand, products, community or cause in new and innovative ways.

The advantages of registering an Arabic domain name are numerous. They include clear improvements to business and trade: an ability to protect a trademark, better communication with Arabic customers, better Arabic-language advertising opportunities, better memorability for Arabic domain names because they will be in the Arabic language, and greater access to Arabic customers.

But there are also significant improvements to how the Internet functions in

the Arabic world. Search results on Arabic search engines will be more precise with Arabic domain names; catchy, memorable domain names will be a spur to the advertising and marketing industries; and a more Arab-friendly Internet will draw in more Arabic-speaking Internet users, helping them to enjoy the fruits of this great technological advance just as speakers of other languages have.

In March 2011, the Gulf state of Qatar enthusiastically started to offer Arabic domain names.

“The launch of Qatar’s Arabic top-level domain names is a major milestone as we work to build a more digitally inclusive society,” said Dr. Hessa Al Jaber, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology, which will manage Qatar’s Internet domain names through the Qatar Domains Registry.

“As more organizations and individuals begin adopting Arabic domain names, the Internet will literally be opened up to broad new audiences. The Arab world represents a region with enormous potential for growth both in terms of usage and the creation of new digital content, especially Arabic content.”

ICANN’s President and Chief Executive, Rod Beckstrom, sees this as a new phase for the Internet: “ICANN has opened the Internet’s naming system to unleash the global human imagination. Today’s decision respects the rights of groups to create new Top Level Domains in any language or script. We hope this allows the domain system to better serve all of mankind.”

LINKS:

1) Watch the ICANN educational video “Get Ready for the Next Big Thing”, explaining how domain names work and what the changes mean. **Website:** <http://www.icann.org>

3) African Youth Want to do Business in Fast-growing Economy

Africa’s growing economy is meeting head-on an optimistic young population keen to start businesses. At least that is what a new poll of African youth says, finding that one in five Africans between the ages of 15 and 24 without a current business wants to start one in the next 12 months.

The Gallup surveys (www.gallup.com) of 27 African countries and areas also found young women were just as keen as young men to start a business.

Throughout the decade of the 2000s, Africa experienced an average economic growth rate of 5.4 percent (World Bank) - a big gain from the poor growth rates of the 1980s and early 1990s.

The turnaround in Africa's economic growth prospects was the product of a number of trends and factors. One has been better policies and easier trade.

Other factors include rising tourism, a growing service sector, rising commodity prices, greater demand for African exports in emerging economies and rapidly improving communications: the surge in mobile phone usage during the last five years has surprised many. Africans are also avid spenders on goods and services, spending US \$860 billion on them in 2008, more than India's US \$635 billion or Russia's US \$821 billion (Economic Report on Africa 2011).

The African Development Bank predicts Africa's growth rate for 2011 will decline to 3.7 percent from 2010's 4.9 percent, largely as a result of turmoil in North Africa. East Africa is projected to grow the fastest this year at 6.7 percent, with West Africa close behind at 5.9 percent.

Africa as a continent collectively had a gross domestic product in 2009 of US \$1.6 trillion: equal to Brazil's or Russia's. The continent is considered among the fastest-expanding economic regions in the world (McKinsey & Company).

In fact, while economic prospects are grim in many developed countries, Africa joined Asia as the only continents to grow during this recession.

But major problems still confront the continent, among them youth unemployment. Those between 15 and 24 make up more than 60 percent of the continent's population and are 45 percent of the total labor force (African Economic Outlook). Sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing a youth explosion, with the proportion of youth there to rise to 75 percent of the population by 2015. Demographers forecast this rising youth trend will not stop for the next 20 years.

Getting these youth actively engaged in the economy and society is a major challenge for the continent. Already, 133 million African youth are illiterate. They have few skills and are marginalised from more productive sectors of the economy.

Even those with an education find their skills often don't match the needs of the labor market. In sub-Saharan Africa, youth unemployment is believed to be 20 percent.

So even with better economic prospects and growing economies and incomes, youth unemployment looms large.

The Economic Report on Africa 2011 (www.uneca.org/era2011/) finds the "persistent high youth unemployment rate is a cause of concern and a potential source of political instability." Job creation is still not adequate: "The growth rates are still below the levels needed to make a significant impact on unemployment and poverty reduction."

While Africa will experience higher growth in 2011, for youth it is looking like a "jobless recovery," according to the report. Overseas investors are mostly throwing their money at the resource sector, which doesn't create many jobs in the economy.

But for young Africans looking to start a business, the opportunities are there in sectors such as retailing, telecommunications, banking, infrastructure-related industries, resource-related businesses, and all along the agricultural value chain.

The booming communications industry has added 316 million new subscribers since 2000, for example. And all those people now connected need new services.

And once a business is up and running, it is possible to make higher profits in Africa than on other continents, according to the UN. Africa leads the emerging market economies for returns for businesses. This is because competition isn't as intense and there is still plenty of built-up consumer demand that needs to be met.

All of this means young people willing to start a business and put in the hard work, will have a better chance of reaping the rewards.

LINKS:

1) iHub Nairobi: iHub Nairobi's Innovation Hub for the technology community is an open space for the technologists, investors, tech companies and hackers in the area. This space is a tech community facility with a focus on young entrepreneurs, web and mobile phone programmers, designers and researchers. It is part open community workspace (co-working), part vector for investors and VCs and part incubator. **Website:**

<http://ihub.co.ke/pages/home.php>

2) The Other Side of Innovation: Solving the Execution Challenge by Vijay Govindarajan, Chris Trimble: On how businesses need to follow through with execution if they really want to innovate. **Website:**

http://hbr.org/product/baynote/an/13219-HBK-ENG?referral=00505&cm_sp=baynote--featured_products--13219-HBK-ENG

3) "The Globe: Cracking the Next Growth Market: Africa" by Mutsa Chironga et al, Harvard Business Review. **Website:** <http://hbr.org/2011/05/the-globe-cracking-the-next-growth-market-africa/ar/1>

4) 2011 Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference: This 5th anniversary conference will provide a learning platform for the world's leading funders, practitioners, technical assistance providers, policy makers, and academics working to increase and improve economic opportunities for young people. Join 400 professionals from over 60 countries to share lessons learned, promising practices, and innovative ideas through technical workshops, engaging plenary sessions, and interactive networking. The result? Higher-impact programming, breakthrough solutions, and proven approaches. This year's theme, **Breakthroughs**, reflects the focus on the

innovative ideas, proven practices, and visionary insights that are taking this emerging field to new heights.

Website: <http://www.youtheconomicopportunities.org/>

5) Dutch Design in Development: DDiD is the agency for fair design, sustainable production and fair trade. They work with Dutch importers and designers and connect them to local producers in developing countries and emerging markets. Together products are made that are both profitable and socially and environmentally sustainable. **Website:**

<http://www.ddid.nl/english/index.html>

6) Francophone Africa Hackathon: Taking place on 24 September 2011, a 'hackathon' to develop mobile phone applications will take place for Francophone Africans. **Website:** <http://www.mobilehackaf.com/>

4) Kenyan Safari Begins Minutes from Airport

Many people find the prospect of staying in airport hotels dreary at best. They tend to be located in industrial parts of cities or far from city centres. They can be surrounded by roads and highways and are built to move lots of people, not to look nice. The surrounding areas can be very common to all nations – warehouses, office parks, nondescript restaurants and hotels - and give few clues to where you are apart from the weather and the languages on the sign boards.

In short, they are the last place you would choose to stay to get a flavour of a country or culture. But in Nairobi, Kenya, this experience has been turned on its head. While many people travel to Africa to take in the breathtaking beauty of the continent and absorb the fascinating cultures and people, they usually wait to do this once they are far from the airport. But not in Nairobi, where it is possible to begin an African adventure right at the airport.

The Nairobi Tented Camp (www.nairobitentecamp.com) opened in December 2010. It allows tourists to sleep in the open savannah (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savanna>). The experience is properly wild, with game animals roaming near the camp. Started by Kenyan Guy Lawrence and drawing on his years of experience running safaris and adventure travel, he partnered with Will Knocker, Marian Mason and Ibrahim Ali Abayo, an elder from the Boran tribe who works as assistant camp manager.

The business makes effective use of its website, interlinking good design, photographs and a blog with other social media to make the camp appealing to tourists using the web.

Tourists can expect to see rhino, zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, leopard, antelope and possibly lions while listening to the yelps of hyenas at night.

Located just minutes from Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta Airport (www.kenyairports.co.ke/kaa/airports/jkia/), Wilson Airport and Nairobi City

itself, the camp is nestled in a forest in Nairobi National Park (http://www.kws.org/parks/parks_reserves/NANP.html). It is the first accommodation to be allowed in this part of the park.

In total, it takes 30 minutes from landing at the airport to be settled in the camp. The last 20 minutes of the drive to the camp takes place in the park, and gets the wild game adventure started early.

In real estate people talk about "location, location location": find the right place, and you reap the benefits. And you cannot find a better location than Kenya's oldest national park – 12,000 hectares in size - located beside East Africa's dynamic regional hub of Nairobi, Kenya. The business is a good example of how a twist on the traditional safari camp and resort can attract attention.

The camp is surrounded by savannah plains on one side, and the city of Nairobi on the other.

The tented camp pitches itself at travellers looking for a better option than just staying in a nondescript airport hotel, or who are looking for a great way to begin a longer journey into Kenya.

"Safaris in Kenya used to start after a long five-hour drive down to the Maasai Mara," camp owner Gary Lawrence told Monocle magazine. "But now your safari can start 10 minutes after leaving the airport."

Kenya has been in recovery mode since its tourism industry was hit hard by a combination of events in 2008. Kenya experienced violent rioting during the 2007 and 2008 elections and a body blow from the 2008 global economic crisis. Both events caused a severe drop in tourism.

In 2007, the country received more than 2 million foreign tourists and close to US \$1 billion in revenue, but numbers fell the following year. However, tourism grew 15 percent from 2009 to 2010 in Kenya, putting the country on course to meet its 2012 goal of returning to 2 million tourists a year.

Tourism is a critical foreign currency earner for Kenya and saw growth in revenues of 18 percent in 2010 from 2009 (Kenya Tourist Board).

Kenya's strategy has included aggressive marketing campaigns in new markets to attract tourists. The country is billing itself as a "high value for high spending tourists" and it has seen increasing numbers of visitors from the booming emerging economies of India, Russia, China and the Middle East. Most of Kenya's tourists come from the United Kingdom, the United States, Italy and Germany.

LINKS:

1) Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust: The Trust runs the Campi Ya Kanzi Maasai-run ecotourist resort in Kenya. **Website:** www.maasaitrust.org and

www.maasai.com

2) Ecotourism Kenya: Ecotourism Kenya promotes responsible tourism practices within the tourism industry. This entails encouraging the adoption of best practices in the use of tourism resources, working with local communities and managing wastes and emissions. **Website:** www.ecotourismkenya.org

3) Magical Kenya: The official Kenya Destination website designed to help tourists plan a trip. **Website:** www.magicalkenya.com

4) Ministry of Tourism Kenya: A website packed with information on accommodation, parks and reserves and business opportunities. **Website:** www.tourism.go.ke

Window on the World

Check out our website: www.southerninnovator.org



Our new magazine, Southern Innovator, has launched: the first issue's theme is mobile phones and information technology. Throughout 2011, we will be launching more media products building on the success of the Development Challenges, South-South Solutions e-newsletter: stay tuned for more developments. Please contact the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation if you would like a copy (copies) of the new magazine. E-mail: ssc.info@undp.org

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Books

Consumptionomics: Asia's Role in Reshaping Capitalism by Chandran Nair, Publisher: Infinite Ideas. **Website:** www.amazon.com

World 3.0: Global Prosperity and How to Achieve It by Pankaj Ghemawa, Publisher: Harvard Business School Press. **Website:** www.amazon.com

How the West Was Lost: Fifty Years of Economic Folly – And the Stark Choices Ahead by Dambisa Moyo, Publisher: Allen Lane. The new book from challenging thinker Moyo, it argues the West needs to start following China's economic model or face economic ruin. **Website:** www.amazon.com

The China Miracle: Development Strategy and Economic Reform by Justin Yifu Lin, Publisher: The Chinese University Press. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

Africa in the Global Economy by Richard E. Mshomba, Publisher: Lynne Rienner. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

The Recession Prevention Handbook: Eleven Case Studies, 1948-2007 by Norman Frumkin, Publisher: M. E. Sharpe. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

The Roller Coaster Economy: Financial Crises, Great Recession and the Public Option by Howard J. Sherman, Publisher: M. E. Sharpe. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

Global Slump: The Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance by David McNally, Publisher: PM Press. *Global Slump* analyzes the global financial meltdown as the first systemic crisis of the neoliberal stage of capitalism. It argues that – far from having ended – the crisis has ushered in a whole period of worldwide economic and political turbulence. In developing an account of the crisis as rooted in fundamental features of capitalism, *Global Slump* challenges the view that its source lies in financial deregulation. **Website:** https://secure.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product_detail&p=271

Aftershock: Reshaping the World Economy After the Crisis by Philippe Legrain, Publisher: Little, Brown. **Website:** <http://www.philippelegrain.com/aftershock/>

Creative Ecologies: Where Thinking is a Proper Job by John Howkins, Publisher: UQP. **Website:** <http://www.creativeeconomy.com/think.htm>

The Global Crisis: The Path to the World Afterwards by Frank Biancheri, Publisher: Anticipolis. **Website:** http://www.anticipolis.eu/en_index.php

The Age of Empathy: Nature's Lessons for a Kinder Society by Frans de Waal, Publisher: Crown. **Website:** www.amazon.com

Arrival City by Doug Saunders, Publisher: Pantheon. A third of humanity is on the move. History's largest migration is creating new urban spaces that are this century's focal points of conflict and change — centres of febrile settlement that will reshape our cities and reconfigure our economies. **Website:** <http://arrivalcity.net/>

China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit? by Penny Davis, Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development. **Website:** http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf

Globalization and Competition: Why Some Emergent Countries Succeed while Others Fall Behind by Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, Publisher: Cambridge University Press. **Website:** http://www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12_GACL.htm

Tourism and Poverty Reduction: Pathways to Prosperity by Jonathan Mitchell and Caroline Ashley, Publisher: Earthscan. **Website:** <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=92842&v=497073>

State of the Field in Youth Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods Development Publisher: Making Cents International. **Website:** <http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org>

Urban World: A New Chapter in Urban Development Publisher: UNHABITAT **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/31244004/Urban-World-A-New-Chapter-in-Urban-Development>

Building Decent Societies: Rethinking the Role of Social Security in Development edited by Peter Townsend, Publisher: International Labour Office. **Website:** www.ilo.org/publns

World of Work Report 2010: From One Crisis to the Next? Publisher: International Labour Office. **Website:** www.ilo.org/publns

From the Great Recession to Labour Market Recovery: Issues, Evidence and Policy Options edited by Iyanatul Islam and Sher Verick, Publisher: International Labour Office. **Website:** www.ilo.org/publns

Papers and Reports

Illicit Financial Flows from the Least Developed Countries: 1990-2008 UNDP-Commissioned Report
Contact: Monique Perry Danziger
Email: mdanziger@gfip.org
Website: <http://www.financialtaskforce.org/2011/05/12/undp-commissioned-report-from-global-financial-integrity-%E2%80%9Cillicit-financial-flows-from-the-least-developed-countries-1990-2008%E2%80%9D-now-available/>

Information Economy Report 2010: ICTs, Enterprises and Poverty Alleviation Publisher: UNCTAD. **Website:** <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=13912&intltemID=2068&lang=1>

State of China's Cities: 2010/2011: Better City, Better Life Publisher: UNHABITAT. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/39882697/State-of-China-s-Cities-Report-2010-2011>

Still our Common Interest: Commission for Africa Report 2010 Publisher: Commission for Africa **Website:** <http://www.commissionforafrica.info/2010-report>

World Economic Outlook Update: Restoring Confidence without Harming Recovery Publisher: IMF. **Website:** <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/update/02/index.htm>

Trade and Development Report, 2010: Employment, Globalization and Development Publisher: UNCTAD. **Website:** <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=13740&intItemID=2068&lang=1>

Empowering People and Transforming Society: The World Economic Forum's Technology Pioneers 2011 Publisher: World Economic Forum. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/35953976/Technology-Pioneers-2011>

The Emerging Middle Class in Developing Countries Publisher: OECD. **Website:** <http://www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmp8lncrns-en> (PDF - 2.09 mb)

The BRICSAM Countries and Changing World Economic Power: Scenarios to 2050 by Manmohan Agarwal, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power. Africa and Mexico has the potential to change the balance of economic power in the world. This paper analyzes this potential building on developments in these economies over the past four decades in the context of the evolution of the world economy. **Website:** http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_39-web-1.pdf

The Implications of China's Ascendancy for Africa by Hany Besada, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: *Shifting Global Power*. This paper examines the extent to which China's engagement with Africa has produced mutual benefits for both and whether Africa is reaping the necessary benefits required for poverty alleviation and economic development. **Website:** http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf

Europe-North Korea: Between Humanitarianism and Business? Edited by Myungkyu Park, Bernhard Seliger and Sung-Jo Park, Publisher: LIT. **Website:** [www.gpic.nl/EU - North Korea book.pdf](http://www.gpic.nl/EU-North-Korea-book.pdf)

Global Economic Decoupling Alive and Well Emerging economies decouple from the US, come closer to Europe. **Website:** <http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article23670.html>

The Global Financial Crisis and Africa's "Immiserizing Wealth" Research Brief, United Nations University, Number 1 2010. **Website:** http://www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU_ResearchBrief_10-01.pdf

Where Western business sees 'risk', Chinese entrepreneurs see opportunity *by Dr Jing Gu. Dr Gu and her China based team from the China-Africa Business Council (CABC) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) have had direct access to private Chinese companies working in Africa, including 100 in-depth interviews with Chinese firms and business associations and officials in both China and Africa.* **Website:** <http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/where-western-business-sees-risk-chinese-entrepreneurs-see-opportunity>

Can China Save Western Economies From Collapse? **Website:** <http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article19484.html>

China's economic invasion of Africa **Website:** <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/feb/06/chinas-economic-invasion-of-africa>

Africa begins to make poverty history: US economists challenge conventional view that the continent is a basket case **Website:** <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-poverty-history>

On the Web

Blogs and Websites

mDirectory: The mDirectory is the most comprehensive database of information on mobile tech for social change on the Web: case studies, mobile tools, research, and how-to guides. **Website:** <http://mobileactive.org/directory>

Global Development: Launched in September 2010, this new website from the Guardian newspaper will track progress on the MDGs, encourage debate on its blogs, offer a rich store of datasets from around the world, and feature monthly podcasts and resources for schools. **Website:** www.guardian.co.uk/global-development

Latameconomy Website Launches

Latameconomy.org is the latest evolution of the annual Latin American Economic Outlook report, essentially bringing its trusted, high quality content into the digital age. Its wide country coverage and methods of analysis are essential for anyone seeking to understand the economic, social and political developments of Latin American countries.

Website: <http://www.latameconomy.org/en/>

International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs)

International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs) is a pluralist network of progressive economists across the world, engaged in research, teaching and dissemination of critical analyses of economic policy and development.

Website: <http://www.networkideas.org/>

OECD: Tackling the economic crisis website

The global economic crisis is entering a new phase amid signs of a return to positive growth in many countries. But unemployment is likely to remain high and much still needs to be done to underpin a durable recovery. This website will track the recovery.

Website:

http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3343,en_2649_201185_41707672_1_1_1_1,00.html

The Global Urbanist: News and analysis of cities around the world: planning, governance, economy, communities, environment, international. **Website:** www.globalurbanist.com

ICT Update: A bimonthly printed bulletin, a web magazine, and an accompanying email newsletter that explores innovative uses of information technology in agriculture and rural development in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. **Website:**

<http://ictupdate.cta.int/en/Regulars/Perspectives/%28issue%29/56>

Youth-Inclusive Financial Services (YFS-Link) Program website: The first space for financial services providers (FSPs) and youth-service organizations (YSOs) to gather, learn and share about youth-inclusive financial services.

Website: www.yfslink.org

Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment **Website:** <http://triplecrisis.com/>

Full Disclosure: The Aid Transparency Blog: A Devex blog, written by members of the international community. **Website:** <http://www.devex.com/en/blogs/full-disclosure>

Africa Portal: An online knowledge resource offering researchers and opinion leaders a forum to share their insights on Africa and publish their work on pressing areas of concern to policymakers and the public. It aims to fill the gap in accessibility to research and information on policy issues on the continent. **Website:** www.africaportal.org

African Economic Outlook: A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels.

Website: www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en

Africa Renewal: The *Africa Renewal* information programme, produced by the Africa Section of the United Nations Department of Public Information, provides up-to-date information and analysis of the major economic and development challenges facing Africa today. **Website:** <http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/>

Timbuktu Chronicles: A blog by Emeka Okafor

With “a view of Africa and Africans with a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, practical remedies and other self-sustaining activities.” **Website:** <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.com/>

AfriGadget: AfriGadget is a must-read for African invention junkies. They are always on the look out for ingenious innovation that is new or a repurposing of existing technology in a new way, interesting in the sense that the story captures the imagination of others, inspiring others to see solutions in uncommon ways, practical ideas that solve problems in a demonstrable way, and entrepreneurs who are inventing new products or solutions. **Website:** www.afrigadget.com/

Silicon Savanna: Mobile Phones Transform Africa **Website:** <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2080702,00.html>

Interesting Blogger

Olunyi D. Ajao: An Internet entrepreneur & technology enthusiast with strong interests in web design and hosting, writing about mobile communications technologies, and blogging. Topics are aimed at web designers, SEOs, bloggers, Internet entrepreneurs and people with general interests in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa and the rest of Africa. **Website:** <http://www.davidajao.com/blog/>

Social Media

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally, driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

Website: www.sacca.biz

AfriGadget on Facebook: ‘Solving everyday problems with African ingenuity’: **Website:** <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2402629579>

Start-up Funding

The SEED Initiative

Hosted by the UN Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the SEED Initiative is a global partnership for action on the Green Economy. The annual SEED Awards help to develop the most

promising social and environmental start-ups in emerging economies and developing countries.

Website:

<http://unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2647&ArticleID=8798&l=en>

Crowdfund: A South African-based venture fund for technology start-ups in Africa. **Website:** <http://www.crowdfunding.co.za/>

Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship

Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: www.socialedge.org

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

Website: <http://pioneersofprosperity.org/index.php>

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'.

Website: www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd

Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund

Website: www.echoinggreen.org/

Commonwealth Teams up with Private Equity Firm to Deliver up to \$400 Million in Investment in Africa

Small and medium enterprises across Africa are set to benefit from a multimillion dollar investment fund set up by private equity firm Aureos Capital (<http://www.aureos.com/>) with the Commonwealth Secretariat's assistance.

The Aureos Africa Fund, launched in November following feasibility and due diligence studies funded by the Secretariat, will provide long-term capital and support for promising and successful businesses across the continent.

Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Ransford Smith, speaking at the launch of the fund at the Marriot Hotel in London, UK, on 2 November 2009, hailed the fund's launch. He warned that investment in Africa was "critical" if

recent development gains were not to be lost amid the current worldwide recession. "This fund has the potential to make a real contribution to Commonwealth countries in Africa, by helping ordinary businesses to reach their potential and boost much needed growth and jobs across the continent," he said.

Website:

<http://www.thecommonwealth.org/news/215560/021109aureoscapital.htm>

The Africa Land Fund

The fund has raised almost €2 billion from an American pension fund to invest in African agriculture. The Africa Land Fund, created by the UK-based hedge fund Emergent Asset Management, wants to raise a total of €3 billion and is canvassing a range of investors. It plans to invest in agricultural land and livestock, including African game, which will be sold on to private reserves and safari parks. The fund also plans to develop bio fuel crops on marginal land, saving prime agricultural acreage for crops to feed people.

Email: info@eaml.net

Tel: +44 (0) 1428 656 966

Fax: +44 (0) 1428 656 955

Challenge

InnoCentive (<http://www.innocentive.com/>) is a challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable. It is an open marketplace where anybody with a problem can post it, and rewards for effective solutions stretch up to US \$100,000. They use rigorous intellectual property protection so ideas are not stolen without credit being given to the inventor. **Website:**

www.rockfound.org/about_us/news/2007/0720first_seeker.shtml

Video

Forum for the Future: Compelling animated videos exploring the hard choices of an urbanizing world and the need to promote sustainable development and environmental harmony. **Website:**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/forumforthefuture96>

Events

2011

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

September

2011 Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference

[Washington, DC, USA \(7-9 September 2011\)](#)

This 5th anniversary conference will provide a learning platform for the world's leading funders, practitioners, technical assistance providers, policy makers,

and academics working to increase and improve economic opportunities for young people. Join 400 professionals from over 60 countries to share lessons learned, promising practices, and innovative ideas through technical workshops, engaging plenary sessions, and interactive networking. The result? Higher-impact programming, breakthrough solutions, and proven approaches. This year's theme, **Breakthroughs**, reflects the focus on the innovative ideas, proven practices, and visionary insights that are taking this emerging field to new heights.

Website: <http://www.youtheconomicopportunities.org/>

Email: conference@makingcents.com.

Rethinking Development in an Age of Scarcity and Uncertainty

York, UK (19-22 September 2011)

New Values, Voices and Alliances for Increased Resilience. The EADI-DSA 2011 joint conference seeks to be one convening space to fundamentally *revisit and rethink the development paradigm(s) in all its dimensions in an era of plurality, uncertainty and change*. The EADI-DSA 2011 conference seeks to maximise the opportunity of working together and to revisit and rethink 'development', to generate new ideas, new narratives and new thinking whenever possible globally co-constructed with partners in global-South.

Website: <http://www.eadi.org/gc2011>

Francophone Africa Hackathon

Across Africa (24 September 2011)

Taking place on 24 September 2011, a 'hackathon' to develop mobile phone applications will take place for Francophone Africans across Africa.

Website: <http://www.mobilehackaf.com/>

October

Maker Faire Africa 2011

Cairo, Egypt (6-8 October 2011)

MFA 2011 continues to cultivate new and existing maker communities across Africa. As was the case in Accra ('09) and Nairobi ('10), MFA 2011 will present and spotlight the vibrant and endlessly creative individuals that have come to represent the spirit of 'making' throughout the continent. These innovators, artists and tinkerers will be exhibiting a fusion of the informal and formal; ideas, inventions, hacks and designs both low-tech & high-tech. From cuisine to machines, come see their re-imagining of products, exploration of novel materials, and original solutions for some of the continent's most important challenges and opportunities. Maker Faire Africa 2011 will be a celebratory showcase of unhindered experimentation and curiosity.

Website: <http://makerfaireafrica.com/2011/06/09/maker-faire-africa-2011-cairo/>

November

Social Singularity Summit

Amsterdam, Netherlands (11 November 2011)

A gathering of thinkers and entrepreneurs to explore the opportunities and visions of Social Singularity. The summit has been organized to further the understanding of how to speed up and use the newest technologies to make the world a better place.

Website: <http://www.nowmovement.org/detail/events>

10th Metropolis World Congress – Cities in Translation

Porto Alegre, Brazil (23 November to 25 November 2011)

10th Metropolis World Congress is a unique exchange and networking opportunity that gathers urban planners, government leaders, city managers, urban management experts, international NGOs, academics, and other important stakeholders from around the world. The Congress will revolve around the theme “Cities in Transition”. Cities are presently in transition toward new types of challenges concerning the environment, governance, sustainability, innovation, and collaboration, all of which are taking place on an everyday basis. Therefore Metropolis invites us all to consider our future as urban citizens. The event will also be a chance to learn first-hand about the groundbreaking public policies implemented by Porto Alegre, the Capital of Participatory Democracy.

Website: <http://portoalegrecongress2011.metropolis.org/>

Fourth High Level Forum: The Path to Effective Development

Busan, South Korea (29 November to 1 December 2011)

Ministers and specialists will not only take stock of what has been advanced since 2008, but also set out a new framework for increasing the quality of aid in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Developing countries have named their priorities for HLF-4 as: predictable aid; use of country systems; an end to policy conditionality; country-driven capacity development; mutual accountability and reduced transaction costs.

Website:

http://www.oecd.org/document/12/0,3343,en_2649_3236398_46057868_1_1_1_1,00.html

December

Global South-South Development Expo 2011

FAO Rome, Italy (5-9 December 2011)

The Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) is the FIRST EVER Expo solely from the South and for the South. It showcases successful Southern-grown development solutions (SDSs) to address the need to meet Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is designed as a concrete response to the strong commitment made by the Secretary-General and the UNDP Administrator to help the global South realize its shared aspirations for achieving sustainable and equitable development through the sharing and transfer of SDSs, with the support of the donor community and the multilateral system under innovative triangular and public-private partnership (PPP) arrangements. It also constitutes one of the Special Unit's three global and United Nations system-wide South-South support platforms.

Website: <http://www.southsouthexpo.org>

European Development Days 2011

Warsaw, Poland (15-16 December 2011)

The sixth edition of European Development Days brings together male and female politicians, parliamentarians, representatives of international institutions, local authorities, NGOs, business leaders, researchers, journalists, artists and students... all to share their knowledge and their experiences. At every level, participants, hosts, moderators, debaters, exhibitors, whether they're from the North or the South, can all take part, put forward their ideas, examine creative solutions and question responsibilities. The debates are in plenary sessions or in bilateral meetings, in workshops or in the framework of parallel events, in quiet lounges or before the press. The European Development Days represent an opportunity to make good use of the diversity of viewpoints and models operating in the world.

Website: <http://www.eudevdays.eu/#>

2012

Earth Summit 2012: Towards a World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2012

Rio, Brazil (TBC 2012)

The United Nations General Assembly agreed to a new Earth Summit in December. The Summit will be in 2012 and will be hosted by Brazil. The themes are the Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, the institutional framework for sustainable development, emerging issues and a review of present commitments. This site will keep you abreast of all the developments and latest news.

Website: <http://www.earthsummit2012.org/>

Awards and Funding

World Summit Youth Award

The international contest for young people using the Internet and mobiles to take action on the UN Millennium Development Goals. **Website:**

www.youthaward.org

Grand Challenges Canada: Request for proposals

Grand Challenges Canada is pleased to announce a new initiative in its Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health grand challenge. It's called Saving Brains. Its goal is to unlock potential in children and dramatically transform lives in the developing world.

The money to fund this program comes from the Development Innovation Fund. In Budget 2008, the Government of Canada committed \$225 million CAD over five years to the Development Innovation Fund, to support the best minds in the world in a collaborative search for solutions to global health challenges.

For the Request for Proposals: **Website:** http://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Request_for_Proposals-Saving_Brains_EN.pdf

Zayad Future Energy Prize

The world is in desperate need of innovative solutions to create a new, sustainable energy future. No one knows who or where the next great energy solution will come from. Solutions and technologies that could change the world are being developed globally, and the \$2.2 million Zayed Future Energy Prize, managed by Masdar in Abu Dhabi, recognizes and rewards innovation, leadership, and long-term vision in renewable energy and sustainability.

Website: <http://www.zayedfutureenergyprize.com/>

Philips Liveable Cities Award

Philips is looking for individuals and community or non-government organizations and businesses with ideas for “simple solutions” that will improve people’s health and well-being in a city to enter the Philips Liveable Cities Award. To help translate these ideas into reality, three Award grants totalling €125,000 are on the line. One overall winning idea from any of the three categories outlined below will receive a grant of €75,000, while the two additional ideas will receive grants of €25,000.

Website: <http://www.because.philips.com/livable-cities-award/about-the-award>

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India’s rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India’s health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org

Special Award for South-South Transfer - winners announced!

UN-HABITAT, the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) and the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation are pleased to announce the winner of the Housing and Urban Development South-South Transfer Award, a special joint initiative which seeks to recognise housing and urban development practices that have been successfully transferred to other countries in the global South. The winner of the Housing and Urban Development South-South Transfer Award is **Un Techo Para mi País (A Roof for my Country)**, Chile, awarded for mobilising thousands of youth volunteers and transferring its innovative approach to 19 countries across Latin America.

The aim of the award is to identify, provide visibility, and honour those who have successfully shared their projects and approaches internationally, thereby increasing the impact of the initiative.

The winning practice receives US\$15,000 to further transfer the awarded practice to other communities in developing countries.

Website: www.southsouthexpo.org

South-South Experience Exchange Facility

Supported by Mexico, China, India, Denmark, Spain, The Netherlands, and the U.K. and now Colombia, the South-South Experience Exchange Facility is a multi donor trust fund that promotes the idea that developing countries can learn from the successes of other developing countries in overcoming similar challenges. In the past 12 months, the trust has given out 35 grants to countries for learning activities ranging from working with at risk youth in the Caribbean to outsourcing IT services in Africa.

Website: www.southsouthcases.info

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website:

http://www.trustafrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

[Click here for more information](#)

or contact:

namstct@vsnl.com,

namstct@bol.net.in,

apknam@gmail.com

US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design

[AMD](#) and [Architecture for Humanity](#) have announced a prize of \$250 000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

The Open Architecture Prize is the largest prize in the field of architecture and is designed to be a multi-year program that will draw competition from design teams around the world.

Website: www.architectureforhumanity.org

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The University of Ghana (www.ug.edu.gh) has been awarded a project support grant by the Alliance for a Green Revolution (www.agra-alliance.org) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs,

universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: <http://www.acci.org.za/Default.asp?nav=Home&idno=10>

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

Is a social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

Training

Ongoing

Jobs and Careers

Weitzenegger's International Development Job Market: **Website:** <http://www.weitzenegger.de/new/jobmarket.php>

Global Knowledge Initiative

The Global Knowledge Initiative seeks to build global knowledge partnerships between individuals and institutions of higher education and research. It seeks to help partners access the global knowledge, technology, and human resources needed to sustain growth and achieve prosperity for all."

Website: www.globalknowledgeinitiative.org/

Exporthelp - Promoting and supporting access to the European market

The European Commission runs a database for the explicit support of market players in developing countries who want to bring their products to the EU market. The database gives an overview on the EU's preferential trade regimes established for developing countries as well as lists all tariffs, taxes and other requirements for goods imported into the EU.

Website: <http://exporthelp.europa.eu>

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects. **Website:** www.devex.org

Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing

techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website:

<http://bizzlounge.com>

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com>

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: <http://businessfightspovetry.ning.com>

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Zunia

By Development Exchange, it offers news, publications and networking opportunities with the world's development community.

Website: www.zunia.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway (now Zunia.org)

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in

the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: www.diasporaafricanforum.org

Business Planet: a new data map on Entrepreneurship

Business Planet, an interactive Google map, now includes data on new business creation around the world. Measures of entrepreneurial activity are based on the number of total and newly registered corporations. Click on color markers to learn more about each country.

Website: <http://rru.worldbank.org/businessplanet/default.aspx?pid=8>

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [Find a Job in Africa](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)